Fob James GOVERNOR



Alabama Department of REHABILITATION SERVICES

September 18, 1996

David S. Boyer, M.D. RP International 23241 Ventura Blvd., Suite 117 Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Dear Dr. Boyer:

It is with great pleasure that I write to express my enthusiastic support for the concept of TheatreVision for the blind. Many blind persons do not have an opportunity to enjoy the full breathe and scope of the theatre because they lack the available information which is only available through non verbal cues such as facial expression and scene presentation.

In our agency's mission statement we charge ourselves with the mission of helping Alabama's citizens with Disabilities to achieve their maximum potential and while TheatreVision for the blind is not a direct delivery of Rehabilitation Services it certainly can be an intergral part of the scope of services to blind persons.

I appreciate the opportunity lend my personal support and that of my agency to this worthwhile endeavor.

Very truly yours,

Jim Warris, III

Department of Rehabilitation Services

in facino F

Fob James GOVERNOR



Alabama Department of REHABILITATION SERVICES

September 18, 1996

David S. Boyer, M.D. RP International 23241 Ventura Blvd., Suite 117 Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Dear Dr. Boyer:

I have been a blind person for forty-nine and a half years and I never used to think that I missed much in terms of how many Indians Roy Rogers killed or if in fact the Indians had really set the wagons on fire or if the boy had got the girl. I always thought I could tell by the musical score exactly what was happening in a picture however, going to see dancing with wolves with my fiance(now my wife) convinced me that I was missing a great deal. After that experience, Ms. Dot became my narrator and I have come to realize how much I really did and have missed at the movies and especially at the theater.

I want to thank you and the RP International scientific board for working to make blind peoples experiences in theater the fulfilling joy that it should be.

I want you to know that I support and appreciate your work and I will be happy to use my considerable knowledge of organizations of and for blind in the state of Alabama to help foster this endeavor.

Dr. Boyer September 18,1996 page 2

I can only think of what a meaningful experience that a great Alabamian named Helen Keller would have found in the theater had she been able to enjoy it.

I appreciate the opportunity to lend what support I can to the project and I would appreciate being contacted as to how I can lend my personal support.

Our agency (Department of Rehabilitation Services) has been at the forefront of the provision of services to blind and visually impaired citizens in Alabama for many years. We along with sister agencies, such as the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind have lead our state and even the world in pioneering services to blind people. I believe this project will certainly be the complimentary of our efforts.

Please let me know how I might be of service.

Very sincerely yours,

Don Sims, Rehabilitation Specialist Rehabilitation Services to the Blind

BDS/mbw



Alabama Department of REHABILITATION SERVICES



September 6, 1996

RP International P. O. Box 900 Woodland Hills, California 91365

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a professional dealing with the visually impaired, as well as being visually impaired myself, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not the blind are an overlooked and under-served population in terms of providing avenues for the enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

TheatreVision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Very truly yours,

Debra D. Culver, Counselor Dept. of Rehabilitation Services #4 Medical Office Park Talladega, Alabama 35160

DC/bj



Arkansas State Library

One Capitol Mall - Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1081

Office of Library Services and Development Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

(501) 682-1155

10.16.96

RP International, PO Box 9C(), Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

Dear Director:

As a professional working with the visually challenged, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

Theatre Vision has been developed by a woman who is herself blind from retinitis pigmentosa, and therefore in a position to know and address the particular needs of visually disabled people.

It is vital that blind and visually impaired people be afforded the same opportunities to enjoy movies, plays, and television as their sighted counterparts.

I am happy to see that everyday life and the enjoyment of popular culture can be made easier for the blind, and I offer my support and encouragement to the continued development of this very important program.

Sincerely yours,

John J.D. Hall, Director,

Arkansas Regional Library for the Blind



Scripps Memorial Hospitals

October 24, 1996

Dear Director:

As a professional dealing with the visually challenged, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

The fact that TheatreVision was conceived and developed by Helen Harris, a woman who is, herself, blind from retinitis pigmentosa, lets me know it is a program which has fully addressed the particular needs of the visually disabled.

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not, the blind are an overlooked and under-served population in terms of providing avenues for the enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

TheatreVision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Very truly yours,

Linda A. Vander Plaats

Partial Vision Center Coordinator



C.A.L.11 O.R.N.L.A.
D.L.P.A.R.L.N.L.N.L.
O.L.
L.D.U.C.A.L.L.O.N.
721 Capitul Mall
P.O. Box 944272
Sacramento, CA.
94244-2720

November 8, 1996

Helen Harris, President RP INTERNATIONAL P.O. Box 900 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Dear Helen:

Thank you for the opportunity to support TheatreVision. I consider descriptive video and film to be reasonable accommodations for the blind and visually impaired.

Access to mainstream educational and entertainment film, television, and live performances will greatly enhance opportunities for persons who are visually impaired. Descriptions of set designs, facial expressions, wardrobe and other significant aspects of productions add new dimensions to these art forms for the visually impaired audience and help them become more independent.

The California Department of Education encourages producers of educational videos submitted for adoption by the State Board of Education to include descriptions for learners who are visually impaired. Your work is helping producers and directors understand the significance of "built-in" access strategies for all audiences, including the blind and visually impaired.

I remain very interested in this access strategy. Please keep me informed of your efforts to remove barriers in the entertainment industry.

Sincerely,

Rod J. Brawley, Lead Consultant

Clearinghouse for Specialized Media and Technology



John McKinley President

Patrick A. Moore **Executive Director**

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Joseph T. Zeiter, M.D.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a professional dealing with the visually challenged, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

The fact that Theatre Vision was conceived and developed by Helen Harris, a woman who is, herself, blind from retinitis pigmentosa. lets me know it is a program which has fully addressed the particular needs of the visually disabled.

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not, the blind are an overlooked and under-served population in terms of providing avenues for the enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

TheatreVision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Very truly yours.

Joni D. Bauer

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Go D. Havel



The Sequoia Braille Transcribers

P.O. Box 3435 Visalia, CA 93278

RP INTERNATIONAL P.O. Box 900 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Dear Director;

Let this be a letter of support from THE SEQUOIA BRAILLE TRANSCRIBERS of Visalia, California for the Theater Vision Program.

THE SEQUOIA BRAILLE TRANSCRIBERS is a small volunteer organization donating thousand of hours toward the transcribing of printed material into braille. All of our transcribers have direct contact with potential benefactors of this service. These future users look forward enthusiastically to the day when they can enjoy a motion picture similar to the sighted population.

We therefore support and encourage the furtherance of this very important program.

Sincerely,

Carol Willson, Secretary-Treasurer

25938 Road 108

Tulare, CA 93274

Carl William

(209) 686-1868

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind 33 N. Institute Street Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903-3599 Telephone (719) 578-2100 V/TDD FAX (719) 578-2239

Dr. Marilyn Jaitly, Superintendent

9/22/96 Commissioner of Educat
Richard A. Laughlin
Deputy Cummissioner

Dr. David S. Boyar RP International 23241 Ventura Blvd. STE. 117 Woodland Hill CA 91364-1881

Dear Dr. Boyar,

We were excited to learn about Theatre Vision in your recent letter. Theatre Vision promises to remove a major barrier for people who are blind or visually in their enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performances. We discussed the potential of this innovative program with some of our students at the Colorado School for the Blind. They were very excited and asked us to express their enthusiastic support for the continued development of the program.

Please accept this letter of support for RP International's continued development of the TheatreVision program. TheatreVision promises to open one more door toward the full integration of persons with disabilities in our society.

Best regards,

Dr. Marilyn Jaitly, Superintendent

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

Dave Farrell, Principal

Colorado School for the Blind



September 19, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Executive Director of a non-profit organization working with blind and visually impaired seniors, I am writing in support of RP International's TheatreVision program.

Audio narration is an important, and long overdue, enhancement to video entertainment. It enables the visually impaired to enjoy the same entertainment as their sighted companions, and makes the world of movies and live theatre accessible, without distracting sighted viewers.

In Denver, we're very fortunate to have a live theatre Audio Description Program available through Very Special Arts Colorado, and audio described videos available through the Colorado Talking Book Library. But much more needs to be done, and TheatreVision offers the opportunity to open more doors and break down the barriers that have precluded visually impaired people from fully enjoying this form of entertainment.

We offer our enthusiastic support to this very worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Greene

Executive Director



LIGHTHOUSE OF BROWARD COUNTY

"Promoting independence of persons with visual impairment"

650 North Andrews Avenue Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311 954/463-4217 • Fax 954/764-3825

BRAILLE ALPHABET

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^ •• Y :: z •• September 4, 1996

To Whom it May Concern:

As a professional dealing with the blind and visually impaired, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

The fact that TheatreVision was conceived and developed by Helen Harris, a woman who is, herself, legally blind from retinitis pigmentosa, lets me know it is a program which has fully addressed the particular needs of the visually disabled.

I believe it is vital to that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not, the blind are an overlooked and under-served population in terms of providing avenues for the enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

TheatreVIsion removes a barrier that has, until now prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Sincerely.

Jessica Daniels, MSW
Director of Rehabilitation



TAMPA LIGHTHOUSE for the BLIND

1106 W. PLATT STREET • TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606 • (813) 251-2407 • FAX (813) 254-4305

CLIFF OLSTROM
Executive Director

September 4, 1996

To Whom it May Concern:

As a person who is visually impaired as well as one who provides services for the blind and visually impaired I am ecstatic over the concept of auditory narratives for movies and live performances.

RP International has made a tremendous breakthrough in cinema technology with TheatreVision. This wonderful program will allow individuals with a visual impairment to gain a better understanding of what is occurring on screen at the movie theaters and on stage at live performances.

I am in full support of this innovative concept and am looking forward to having TheatreVision in my area.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Bridges

Rehabilitation Instructor

Accredited Member National Accreditation

Memory of New Year of the Company



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
P. O. BOX 2816
AGANA, GUAM 96910



NOV 06 1996

Theatre Vision
P.O. Box 900
Woodland Hills, California 91365

Attention:

Helen Harris

President and Founder

Dear Ms. Harris:

As a professional dealing with the visually challenged, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

The fact that TheatreVision was conceived and developed by Helen Harris, a woman who is, herself, blind from retinitis pigmentosa, lets me know it is a program which has fully addressed the particular needs of the visually disabled.

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not, the blind are an overlooked and under-served population in terms of providing avenues for the enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

TheatreVision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Good luck in your endeavor, and should you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Arthur U. San Agustin, MHR, Acting Administrator, Division of Senior Citizens at (671) 475-0263 or fax (671) 477-2930.

Sincerely,

DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ

Director





Southern Illinois Talking Book Center

Services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped Kristi Barnes, Librarian

September 9, 1996

To Whom it May Concern:

As a librarian who works with the blind and visually impaired, I am writing in support of RP International's TheatreVision program.

In 1993, the Southern Illinois Talking Book Center purchased descriptive videos from Descriptive Video Service(DVS) in Boston. We circulate the videos to our talking book patrons. Our patrons really enjoy the descriptive videos; however, DVS has not been able to keep up with the demand for new titles. We would welcome another source that sells descriptive videos.

I also believe that for the visually impaired it would be very important to be able to enjoy a movie in the theater along with sighted people. Visually impaired people need the same opportunities as sighted.

I believe the work of TheatreVision will help remove a barrier that has prevented the blind from having full access to movies, videos and live performances. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Sincerely, Trust Barnes

Kristi Barnes Librarian

Shawnee Library System / 511Greenbriar Road / Carterville, Illinois 62918-1600 Telephone (Voice:TDD) 618-985-8375 800-455-2665 / Fax 618-985-4211



Dear Director:

This correspondence is in regards to the International's innovative TheatreVision program for which I am lending my support. I have worked in the field of rehabilitation for individuals who are blind and visually impaired for the past 15 years. During which time, I have assisted individuals who were blind to attend a motion picture in a public theatre and would unfortunately interrupt others around us by describing the film or would be late in reporting the action on the film to the blind individual.

TheatreVision will not only remove a barrier for the visually impaired but will make the moving going experience a lot more pleasant and unobtrusive for all in attendance.

People who are blind and visually impaired deserve the right to enjoy all forms of entertainment as anyone does and TheatreVision will further make that possible. I truly do not know how such an important program can be denied or even given a second consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Jones^v

Rehabilitation Instructor



THE GUILD FOR THE BLIND

180 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 1700, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601-7463 (312) 236-8569

October 28, 1996

Ms. Helen Harris
President and Founder
RP International
P.O. Box 900
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Dear Ms. Harris:

Thank you for your informative letter of October 11 and for the opportunity to support your efforts to promote audio description of first-run movies in theaters across the country. On behalf of the staff, Board, Consumer Advisory Board and the more than 3,200 people on our mailing list, I offer you our support.

Please include the Guild for the Blind as a member of the advisory Blue Ribbon Committee for the National Academy of Audio Description. We would be delighted to be listed as a supporting member.

Locally, I feel that the best cinema in Chicago to participate with TheatreVision is the Water Tower Cineplex-Odeon on north Michigan Avenue (312) 649-5790. It is centrally located and accessible by public transportation.

Best wishes to you in your endeavors to promote TheatreVision.

Sincerely,

Danie

David M. McGowan, CFRE Executive Director



NORTHERN
HILLNOIS
HILLRSILLY

October 17, 1996

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY.
COUNSELING, AND
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Helen Harris RP International P.O. Box 900 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Dear Ms. Harris,

DEKALB, ILLINOIS 60115-2867

DEPARTMENT CHAIR (815) 753-8420

SPECIAL EDUCATION (815) 753-8422

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (815) 753-8426

COUNSELING (815) 753-1461

INFORMATION (815) 753-0657

FAX (815) 753-9250

I was extra-ordinarily pleased to learn of your fine efforts to develop theater vision. For years, I have wished that something like this existed. I am a visually disabled person who attends movies. I can vouch for the fact that an audio description of the acting and scenes in the movies would be of enormous help in adding to the enjoyment of movie going. I can speak for the many hundreds of visually disabled persons whom I know who would echo my sentiments. We at Northern Illinois University heartily endorse your efforts. It is our fervent hope that you will be successful. I and my students look forward to the day when we can attend movies and enjoy them to the extent that fully sighted people do.

We wish you the very best in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Professor and Coordinator

Programs in Vision

Faculty of Special Education

GK:jd

THE LIGHTHOUSE

The Lighthinuse For The Blind Inc.

2501 South Plum Street P. O. Box C-14119 Scante, Washington 98114 (206) 322-4200 FAX: (206) 329-3397 TDD: (206) 324-1388

15

George Jacobson

September 9, 1996

David S. Boyer, M.D. RP International 23241 Ventura Blvd, S.e. 117 Woodland Hills, CA 02254 Fax: (§18) 992-3265

FACSIMILIE TRANSMISSION

Dear Dr. Boyer:

Thank you for your letter to George Jacobson, president of the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind, regarding information about TheatreVision for the blind.

While we wholeheartedly support this concept, many of our employees and clients are wondering if there is a **TheatreVision** location in Seattle. Apparently, many have heard of the concept, but have not had an opportunity to attend. Could you please call or fax us with a list of possible locations and dates?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Ahna Machan

Marketing & Development Specialist

Diversified Manufacturing Vocasional Rehabilitation On-The Job Training As Equal Opportunity
Employer



HERMANN EYE CENTER

The University of Texas - Houston Medical School Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science

November 14, 1996

National Academy of Audio Description Audio Description by Theatre Vision RP Fighting Blindness Foundation P. O. Box 900 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Dear Director:

As a professional dealing with the visually challenged, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative Theatre Vision program.

The fact that Theatre vision was conceived and developed by Helen Harris, a woman who is, herself, blind from retinitis pigmentosa, lets me know it is a program which has fully addressed the particular needs of the visually disabled.

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not, the blind are overlooked and under-served population in terms of providing avenues for enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

Theatre Vision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see the barrier being lifted, and off my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Saathoff, C. O.

Low Vision Co-ordinator



September 4, 1996

To Whom it May Concern:

As a professional dealing with the visually challenged, I am in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

The fact that TheatreVision was conceived and developed by Helen Harris, a woman who is, herself, blind from retinitis pigmentosa, lets me know it is a program which has fully addressed the particular needs of the visually disabled.

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not, the blind are an overlooked and underserved population in terms of providing avenues for the enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

TheatreVision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Very truly yours,

Bob Plunkett

President



EAST TEXAS REGIONAL BRANCH 824 SOUTH BECIONAM TYLER TEXAS 75701 Ph. 803-582-2654 Fax 903-592-4641

September 12, 1996

To Whom it May Concern:

As a professional dealing with the visually challenged, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

The fact that TheatreVision was conceived and developed by Helen Harris, a woman who is, herself, blind from retinitis pigmentosa, lets me know it is a program which has fully addressed the particular needs of the visually disabled.

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts. More often than not, the blind are an overlooked and under-served population in terms of providing avenues for the enjoyment of meaningful entertainment.

TheatreVision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind form having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television, and live performance. I am happy to see that barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Very truly yours,

Amy Gould

Program Director

Prevent Blindness Texas



PREVENT BLINDNESS TENNESSEE®

95 White Bridge Road • Suite 513 • Nashville, TN 37205 • 615/352-0450 • FAX 615/352-5750

September 4, 1996

To Whom it May Concern:

As a professional dealing with the visually challenged, I am writing in support of RP International's innovative TheatreVision program.

In working with people with visual impairments, I have learned a great deal of the hard ships that they must face. I have recently taken on a part-time job of helping a blind student who is taking a computer course. The special software that is attached to her computer allows her to be a part of the mainstream at the Technical college. A few years ago this would have been impossible. Thank goodness the software was created!

I believe it is vital that the blind and visually impaired be afforded the same opportunities to participate in mainstream popular culture as their sighted counterparts.

TheatreVision removes a barrier that has, until now, prevented the blind from having full access to the enjoyment of motion pictures, television and live performance. I am happy to see the barrier being lifted, and offer my support and encouragement in the furtherance of this very important program.

Sincerely,

Christy Fisher Program Director

RESIDENT

dichael R. Martin

REASURER

ohn C. (Chuck) Lussing

SECRETARY

iohn O'Neal Clayton, Jr

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205 Badger Road Oak Ridge, TN 37830

PHONE: (423) 482-3496 FAX: (423) 483-9934

tennessee@rfba.org

September 3, 1996

RP International 23241 Ventura Blvd, Ste. 117 Woodland Hills, CA 91364

To Whom it May Concern:

As Executive Director of the Tennessee studio of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, I read your TheatreVision introductory letter with great interest.

I am pleased to offer our organization's support of this innovative concept and project. This kind of forward, visionary thinking is the very kind of "out-of-the-box" conceptualization that we need to pursue and support on behalf of our low-sighted clients.

Thank you for your commitment and great work. Please do not hesitate to call on me if there is anything I can do to further this program.

Reading for those who can't,

Sherrie I. Shuler, Executive Director,

Tennessee Studio, RFB&D



State of Tennessee

Department of Human Services

Division of Rehabilitation Services

TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER

460 Ninth Avenue

Smyrna, Tennessee 37167-2010

Fax # (615) 355-1373 223-9402 TDD

11/15/96

(615) 741-4921 459-6811

Dear Ductor,

He an occupational therapist, grading the rapy for traumatic brain enjunia, I deal with the visially. challenged darly i am uniting in support of RP International's innovative Sheate Vision program.

I believe that the blind & the ushally-impaired should have the same Effortheities and their righted counterparts This concept of Thatuvision, cuated by tien tanni, would be a wondiful bicat. through for the villed in men support &

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I have bush of The